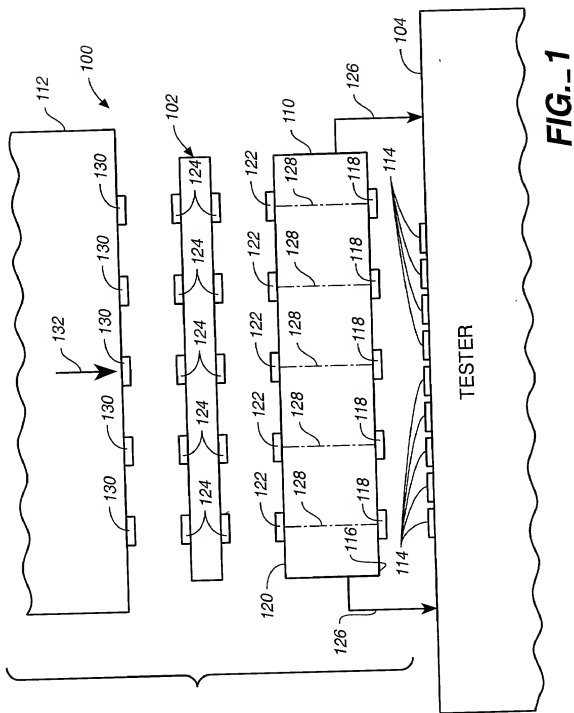


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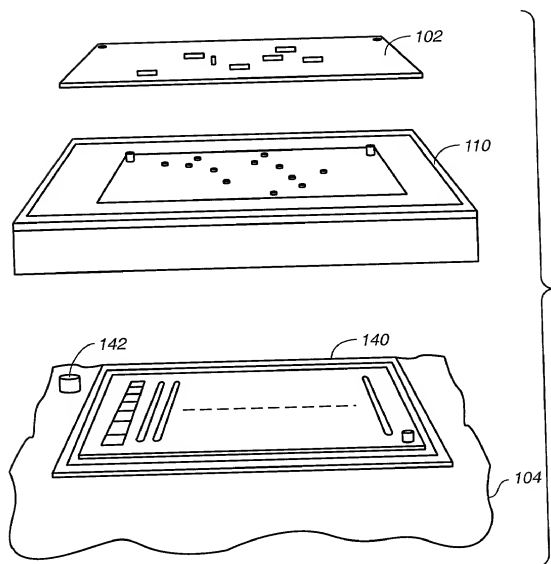


FIG. 2
(PRIOR ART)

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a multi-channel scanning system. An ACTUATOR (164) is connected to a base plate (112-1) which supports four vertical channels. Each channel contains a probe (166-1, 166-2, 166-3, 166-4) and a series of sensors (130, 169, 122, 168-2, 110-1). The channels are positioned over a sample surface (144) which has a series of features (160, 170). The system is connected to a control unit (146) via a data bus (140).

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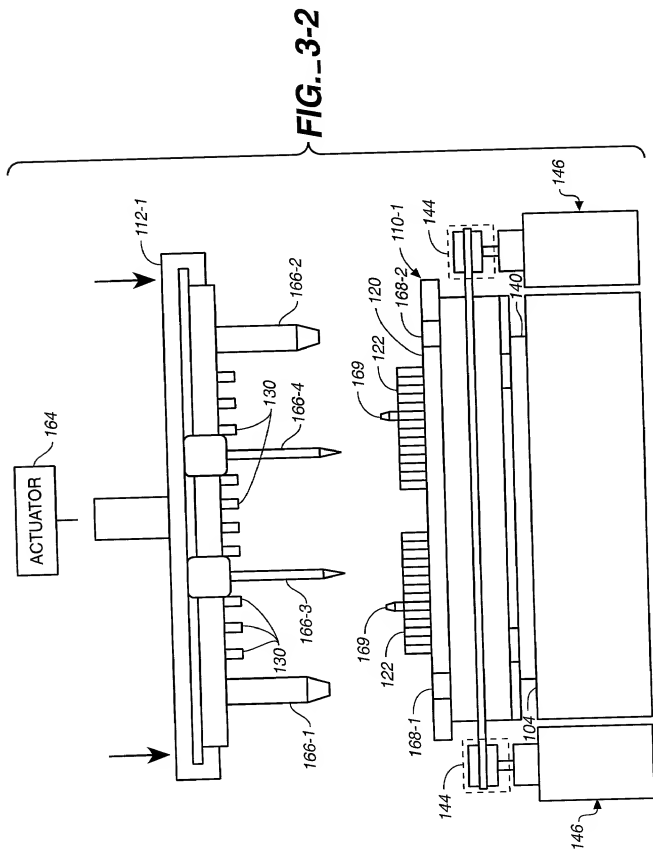


FIG.-3-3

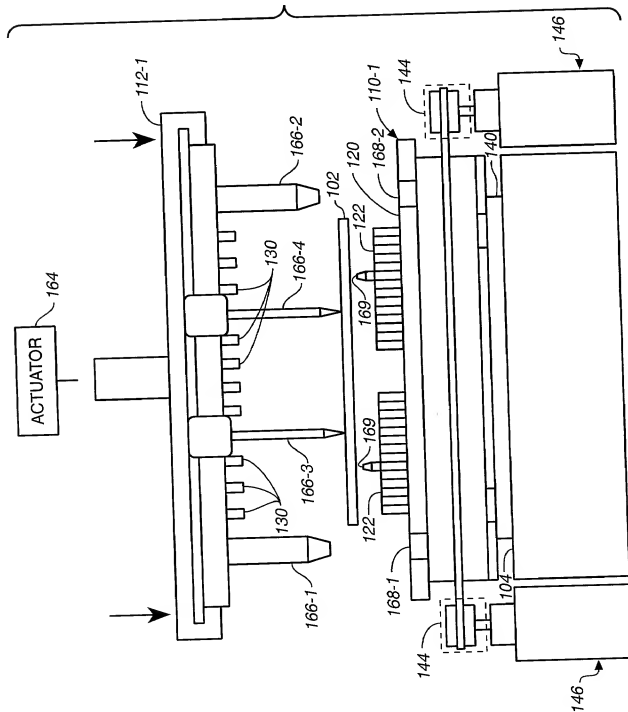
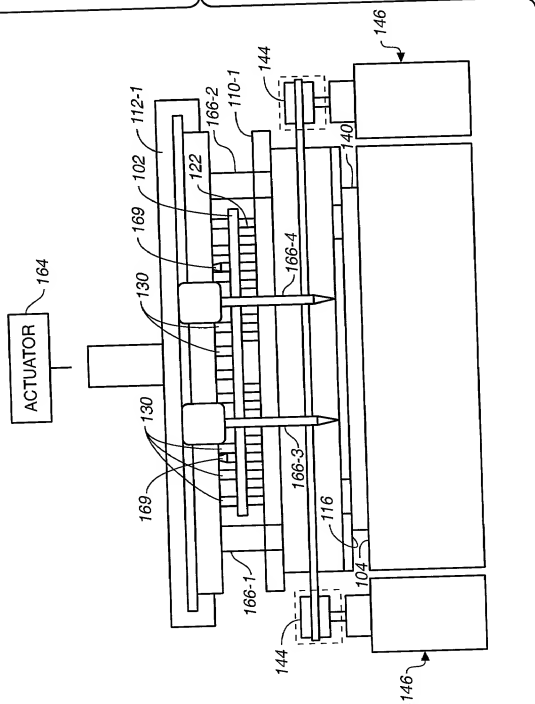
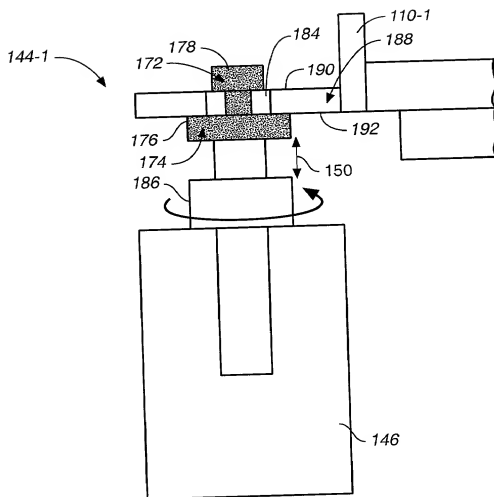
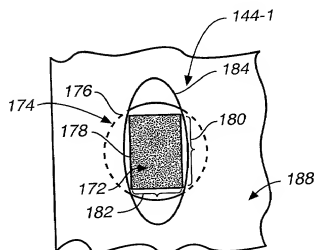
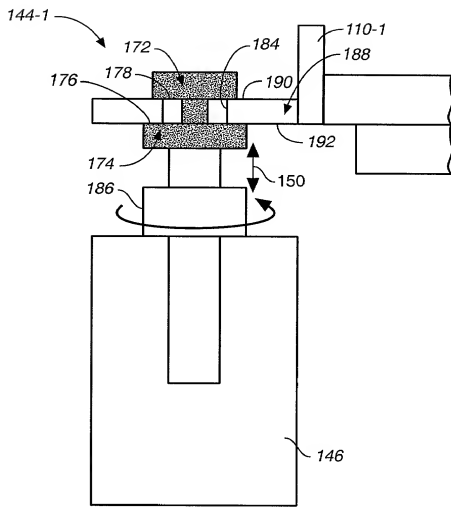
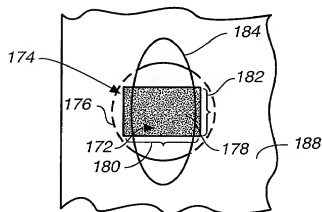


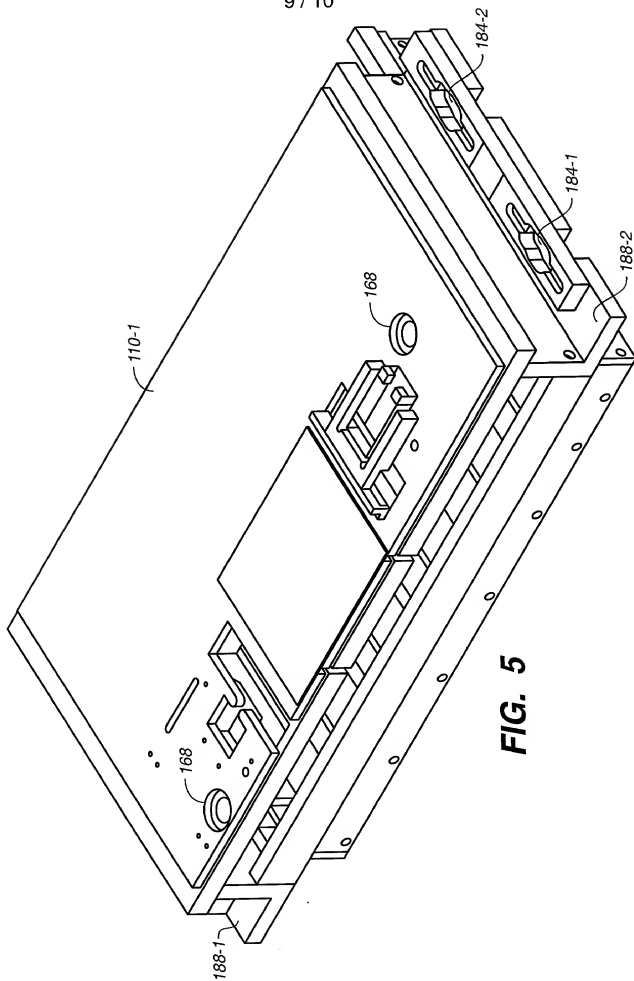
FIG. 3-4



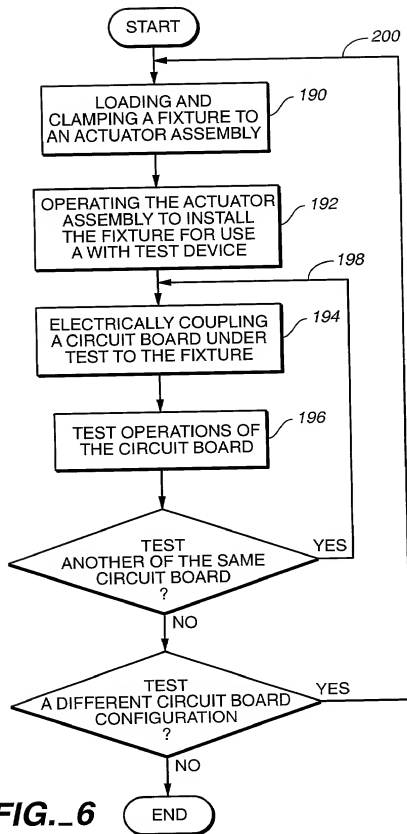
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**FIG._4-1****FIG._4-2**

**FIG. 4-3****FIG. 4-4**

**FIG. 5**

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**FIG._6**